

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

MERCANTILE INTERESTS CONSIDERED. THE BANKRUPTCY LAW IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—ELEGACY EX-EMIT'S SUGGESTION FOR AN INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM.

At the Chamber of Commerce meeting yesterday, James W. Elwell, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Commerce, reported the result of the conference with the Western Union Telegraph Company, with view to having the rules respecting the use of certain words in code-messages rescinded. It was stated, as the European telegraph companies had adopted the rules, the Western Union and the Anglo-American companies were unable to give any relief. A resolution was adopted condemning such action by the telegraph companies.

D. C. Robbins, chairman of the Special Committee to e-operate with the Board of Trade of the City of Boston, in drafting a National Bankrupt Law, made the following preliminary report:

It is suggested that the proposed Bankrupt law shall be in the hands of judges with fixed salaries, in order that no judge be contaminated by the payment of fees; also that the clerk of the court of the proposed Court shall be paid a salary, and that the fees for the registration of the law shall go to the United States, as a fund toward the payment of Court expenses and salaries.

No distinction shall be made in proposed law between voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy. Assignees shall be elected by the creditors and be subject to the control of committees of creditors, as was substantially provided for in the late bankrupt law. Adjudication of bankruptcy shall be had upon petition of one or more creditors. Regarding fraud, it is advised that the time, within which preferences and conveyances are avoided, shall be extended to four months; and that the time for which claims in the number and three-fourths in value of the creditors in number and three-fourths in value, not including creditors whose claims do not exceed \$50; and that the debtor, in such cases pay all costs of proceedings.

It may be assumed that any law which may be devised will provide for some measure, unless account is taken of the probability of the debtor for the proper management of his business. A discharge of the bankrupt should never be allowed without a careful examination of past transactions. The responsibility, which pertains to all enterprises, is carefully preserved, and is more important than individuality of ownership. The British Government, which has lagged in its bankrupt courts a large discretion, and all its prominent officials are salaried officers. The Court can discharge or refuse to discharge, and it can punish by imprisonment; and yet there has arisen in England a very considerable opposition to the law, and especially to its administration, which with slight modifications, would excite still more the time of Henry the Eighth, because of the delay and expense attending bankruptcy cases, and the漫漫 experience that it has been found to be difficult to get creditors to obstruct justice.

There is a desire to have a foreign committee of experts to inspect the accounts of the debtor, and to have a general committee of experts to inspect the accounts of the creditors. The British Government, which has lagged in its bankrupt courts a large discretion, and all its prominent officials are salaried officers. The Court can discharge or refuse to discharge, and it can punish by imprisonment; and yet there has arisen in England a very considerable opposition to the law, and especially to its administration, which with slight modifications, would excite still more the time of Henry the Eighth, because of the delay and expense attending bankruptcy cases, and the漫漫 experience that it has been found to be difficult to get creditors to obstruct justice.

THE FEELING IN THIS CITY.

HIGHER PAY WANTED, BUT NO GENERAL DISPOSITION TO STRIKE—A RELIANCE UPON THE JUSTICE OF THEIR EMPLOYERS.

The rumors that have been current recently of an impending general strike among the workmen of this city do not appear, upon investigation, to be founded upon facts.

Among certain classes of skilled laborers there is a feeling that their wages are inadequate, and there is a desire for an increase, but there seems to be no disposition to force employers to advance the rates now paid by resorting to strike.

Certain other classes of workmen are looking for the advances usually made at this season, when the hours of outdoor labor are longer.

It is only the men who belong to labor unions who have struck or are talking of doing so.

These statements seem justified by the results of inquiries made in various quarters yesterday by a Tribune reporter.

He was told by Mrs. Laura E. Byrne, counsel for the plaintiff, that she had been engaged to represent her in the contest in which she obtained through the United States Courts foreign ship-shoemakers may be open to the inspection of the manufacturers of New-York and neighboring States.

LOVE-LETTERS AND WALKING-MATCHES.

THE REMARKABLE COMBINATION OF SERVICES FOR WHICH A SUIT IS BROUGHT.

A suit is pending in the Marine Court which is brought to recover claims for somewhat similar services. The plaintiff is John W. Boyle, and the defendant is Pulten H. Ottman. The complaint sets forth as the first cause of action services rendered as trainer to David Hennessy and Edmund Williams, pedestrians who took part in the contest in Madison Square Garden last December. The amount sought on this ground is \$150.

The second cause of action is described thus: "That the defendant, having been engaged to or contemplating marriage with a lady of New-York City of position and wealth, had induced him to his son to bring himself off with said lady by reason of a misunderstanding existing between them, solicited and employed the plaintiff in September, 1879, to prepare and compose a series of letters to said lady in the endeavor to procure her favor and obtain her affections as a defendant, and also obtained the services of defendant to said lady's society and regard, promising and agreeing to pay the plaintiff for his services in preparing the correspondence a liberal sum of money, and also a new suit of clothes for the plaintiff, as soon as his relations with said lady were restored."

He set forth that the plaintiff performed his task so well that the relations between the lady and the defendant were restored to the latter's entire satisfaction, and that the wedding is soon to take place. For his services the plaintiff demands \$300, and \$35 additional in fees for the clothes. Counsel for the defendant demanded to the second cause of action, on yesterday, Judge McAdam allowed the demurser and ordered the case to proceed to trial.

A WOMAN'S SHEEWD SPECULATIONS.

LIVING IN POOR ROOMS IN A TENEMENT-HOUSE ALTHOUGH THE POSSESSOR OF A LARGE FEE.

Louisiana St. John, an old woman who lived alone in Elizabeth-st, for several years and had been supposed to be poor, died about a year ago. The people who lived in the same tenement-house with her knew little of her affairs except that her rooms were small and poorly furnished, and she appeared to have little money to spend. After her death, however, it was discovered that she left a will that disposed of property owned by her which amounted in value to between \$300,000 and \$400,000. This she had made by sound real estate speculations, without forsaking her old frugal habits. The most of her friends and relatives were dead, but she was represented by a son, who had been a member of the firm of attorneys representing the executors.

He had been engaged to represent the executors.

Mr. McDonnell, the attorney for the executors, had been engaged to represent the plaintiff, and the Surrogate permitted Mr. Wetherby to remain upon the record as their proctor. The subscribing witnesses to the will were examined yesterday.

SEEKING NEW-JERSEY AND DEATH.

W. C. C. Brunning, a German, who recently removed to Passaic City, N. J., committed suicide on Wednesday by taking laudanum. For some time he had quarreled frequently with his wife, and for several weeks has slept in his shoe-shop. This was closed all day Wednesday, and at night it was explored open by a police officer, who found the body of Brunning on the bed. On a shelf was a letter in German which read as follows:

I have taken it out of love to my wife, so that I will be in the other world. I consider it would be a sin to live with a woman whose husband is alive, and not separated from her. I have asked different times that she should produce the papers and show them to me, but she would not.

W. C. C. BRUNNING.

His wife refused to make any statement yesterday.

It is alleged that she was married once before, and that her first husband is still living. She told Mr. Brunning that she had been divorced.

Recently she received a large number of letters and papers from her first husband, which made No. 2 very jealous.

The unknown man, apparently a German, who was found lying in the casket on Wednesday, suffering from a bullet wound in his mouth, died the same night at the hospital on Jersey City Heights. He was about forty years of age. There were no letters or papers on the body which would lead to his identification. His death was caused by his own hand, as a revolver was found near him in the casket, and a small box of cartridges was found in his pocket.

DEPARTURE OF DE LESSEPS.

Count de Lesseps, with his family, and Messrs. Bonne, Converse, Gellatly, Daupratt, and de Sabla, went to Washington yesterday morning by the 10 o'clock train. A special car, the Minerva, was reserved for them. A Ferro and Schor J. Arosemena, the Colombian Minister Resident, also came on the same train. Count de Lesseps expects to remain in Washington a few days. He will then go to Philadelphia, and, leaving there his wife and children with friends, he and his party will go to Chicago and San Francisco. He will probably return to New-York in five or six weeks.

SINKING TO ABJECT MISERY.

Gorner Ellinger was informed yesterday of the death, at No. 9 First-st., of Carl Schramm, a single man thirty years of age, who for a year or more had sought the lowest class of lodgings and subsisted on the charity of a few pitying friends. He was born in Vienna, Austria, where his father was

a successful lawyer. He received a fine education and was graduated in the law with a promising future before him. But some early disappointments drove him from his country and family, and four years ago he came to the United States. Here he became the victim of slow consumption. He died in utter desolation. Among his possessions was found the address of his mother in Vienna to whom he desired to send "in case of my sudden death." The lodging-house where Schramm died is in a deep cellar, damp and ill-ventilated. It use as a sleeping-room is in direct violation of health laws, and the proprietor, a man whom complainants have held as a lodger, has agreed it to be closed. The tenement with others near it belongs to Fernando Wool, and two complaints have been made before its condition.

A COACHMAN WHO TOLD THE LOVE, TOO MUCH FRANKNESS TO THE CHAMBERMAID AND TOO MUCH FONDNESS FOR THE COOK ENDING IN SUICIDE.

Charles G. Miller, who for some time, with his two boys, has lived with the family of Mrs. Hoskins, in Centre-ave., in New-Rochelle, has had his employer for some seven or eight years a coachman by the name of Thomas Sparrow, and on going to Cuba some time ago, Mr. Miller made arrangements for his coachman to continue to live in the family of Mrs. Hoskins, and take care of the two boys. In the house a young woman by the name of Mary O'Neil was employed as a nurse. With her the coachman became infatuated, and to all appearances Mary O'Neil reciprocated his attachment until recently, when Sparrow, desiring to be perfectly frank with his expectant bride, confessed to her that for some time he had had more than a mere passion for one or more maid-servants. Regarding fraud, it is advised that the time, within which preferences and conveyances are avoided, shall be extended to four months; and that the time for which claims in the number and three-fourths in value of the creditors in number and three-fourths in value, not including creditors whose claims do not exceed \$50; and that the debtor, in such cases pay all costs of proceedings.

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The first visit, according to his statement to an intimate acquaintance, was rather cordial, but he had to say explanations, but his second visit proved unsatisfactory, and from that time Sparrow became greatly depressed in spirits. In addition to his trouble with Miss O'Neil, his intimacy with the cook greatly increased his uneasiness. The cook was jealous, and intimated that the two boys were not to be trusted. The boy, however, was not to be trusted.

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